

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A series of replacement parts for a plasma arc torch, the series including parts adapted for use at different operating parameter values, each part in the series having a color indicia formed on the part with a different color identifying the particular value of the operating parameter at which the part is adapted to operate.
2. The series of replacement parts according to Claim 1, wherein the replacement parts are selected from a group consisting of electrodes, tips, nozzles, gas distributors, shield caps, shield cups, start cartridges, torch heads, torch leads, lead parts, torch handles, adapters, adapter kits, and quick disconnects.
3. The series of replacement parts according to Claim 2, wherein the shield caps are selected from a group consisting of mechanized caps, drag caps, gouging caps, and deflecting caps.
4. The series of replacement parts according to Claim 2, wherein the lead parts are selected from a group consisting of hoses, wiring, shield sheaths, strain reliefs, lead jackets, and connectors.
5. The series of replacement parts according to Claim 2, wherein the color indicia for the replacement parts is based on use with a specific manufacturer and is selected from a group consisting of blue for Miller, red for Lincoln, yellow for ESAB, orange for Hypertherm, and black for Thermal Dynamics.

6. The series of replacement parts according to Claim 1, wherein the operating parameter is selected from a group consisting of amperage, starting method, gas type, gas flow rate, operating mode, replacement part material type, workpiece thickness, and workpiece material type.

7. The series of replacement parts according to Claim 1, wherein the color indicia is a coating on at least a portion of each replacement part.

8. The series of replacement parts according to Claim 7 further comprising a marking selected from a group consisting of MS for mild steel, AL for aluminum, SS for stainless steel, and GP for general purpose.

9. The series of replacement parts according to Claim 1, wherein the color indicia is a marking.

10. The series of replacement parts according to Claim 9, wherein the marking is selected from a group consisting of MS for mild steel, AL for aluminum, SS for stainless steel, and GP for general purpose.

11. The series of replacement parts according to Claim 10, wherein the MS, AL, and SS define a color corresponding to an operating amperage of the replacement part.

12. The series of replacement parts according to Claim 9, wherein the marking is a logo or trademark.

13. A series of replacement parts for a plasma arc torch, the series including parts adapted for use at different operating parameter values, each part in the series being packaged in a package with a different color indicia identifying the particular value of the operating parameter at which the part is adapted to operate.

14. A plasma arc torch comprising a plurality of replacement parts, the parts being adapted for use at specific operating parameter values of the plasma arc torch, each part having a color indicia formed on the part, wherein the color identifies the particular value of the operating parameter at which the part is adapted to operate.

15. A series of replacement parts for a plasma arc torch, the series including parts adapted for use at different operating amperages, each part in the series having a color indicia formed on the part with a different color identifying the particular value of the amperage at which the part is adapted to operate.

16. A series of replacement parts for a torch, the series including parts adapted for use at different operating parameter values, each part in the series having a color indicia formed on the part with a different color identifying the particular value of the operating parameter at which the part is adapted to operate.

17. The series of replacement parts according to Claim 16, wherein the torch is selected from a group consisting of plasma arc, MIG, TIG, gas, and laser.

18. The series of replacement parts according to Claim 16, wherein the replacement parts are nozzles for laser cutting torches.

19. A method of identifying the values of an operating parameter at which replacement parts for a plasma arc torch are adapted to operate, the method comprising the step of packaging each part in a package with a color indicia with a different color identifying the particular value of the operating parameter at which the packaged part is adapted to operate.

20. A method of identifying the values of an operating parameter at which replacement parts for a plasma arc torch are adapted to operate, the method comprising the step of applying a color indicia to the part, with a different color identifying the particular value of the operating parameter at which the part is adapted to operate.

21. A method of selecting proper replacement parts for a plasma arc torch from a plurality of similarly appearing replacement parts adapted for use at different operating parameters, the method comprising the step of selecting a part from a plurality of packaged parts based on a color indicia corresponding to the desired operating parameter for the replacement part.

22. A method of selecting proper replacement parts for a plasma arc torch from a plurality of similarly appearing replacement parts adapted for use at different operating parameters, the method comprising the step of selecting a part from a plurality of parts based on a color indicia corresponding to the desired operating parameter for the replacement part.

23. A method of specifying proper replacement parts for a plasma arc torch from a plurality of similarly appearing replacement parts adapted for use at different operating parameters, the method comprising the step of specifying a plurality of packaged parts based on a color indicia on the package corresponding to the desired operating parameter for the replacement part.

24. A method of specifying proper replacement parts for a plasma arc torch from a plurality of similarly appearing replacement parts adapted for use at different operating parameters, the method comprising the step of specifying a plurality of parts based on a color indicia on the parts corresponding to the desired operating parameter for the replacement part.